

Please replace the paragraph originally found on page 25, lines 21-30 of the specification, and replaced by the preliminary amendment dated April 23, 2001, (see page 6 of that amendment), with the following paragraph:

**–Request Negotiation Thread Status:** Fig. 11 shows the sequence of interactions and the actors or main components involved when online information about a negotiation thread is requested. Online information about a negotiation thread where a specific agent (acting on behalf of a specific user for example) is involved, may be obtained through the Online Negotiation Information Server 815, which can be contacted via TCP/IP by an applet 1205 running on the client side (in a HTML browser for example). The Online Negotiation Information Server 815 contacts the Load Balancer 820 (via CORBA) and requests the status of the specified negotiation thread. The Load Balancer physically identifies (using its COBRA IOR – Interoperable Object Reference) the agent and asks it about the status of the specified negotiation thread. The agent's response is sent back on the same path till reaches the applet originating the request. By using such a procedure, for example, a user may obtain dynamic information in a graphical form related to the negotiation thread(s) in which one of his or her agents is involved.--

#### REMARKS

This amendment makes changes to the specification in view of the deletion of original Fig. 11, as filed in a Preliminary Amendment on April 23, 2001. The amendment also removes some reference designators in the figure and changes the specification to reflect these changes. No new matter has been added in any manner by this amendment. Thus, replacement Fig. 12 is now Fig. 11.

This amendment is being filed with the payment of the issue fee and thus complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.312(a).